

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application including independent claims 1 and 14. New dependent claims 21-23 have been added. Claims 5 and 16 are indicated as allowable.

The amendments to the claims are not related to any objections or rejections set forth in the subject official action. The claims have solely been amended to provide consistent terminology throughout the claims and to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claims 1-3, 6, and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Milans (US 729630). The examiner argues that Milans discloses a guide mechanism comprising a guide rail D, D', a sliding carriage E with edges that are tiltable, a pair of brake members e, and a spring F. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation of Milans.

Milans discloses guide strips D, D' that are mounted to sides of a window casing C wherein a block body E is received within each guide strip D, D'. Wheels (e) are positioned at upper and lower ends on one side of the block body E. On an opposite side of the block body E is a spring F. The spring F exerts a force that holds the wheels (e) against a surface (d') of the respective guide strip D, D'. The block body E, which the examiner argues is corresponds to the claimed sliding carriage, does not include a tilt edge and cannot swivel about a tilt edge.

Applicant's claimed sliding carriage is movable between at least two positions. As set forth in claim 1, the sliding carriage includes a brake member that cooperates with the brake face on the guide rail to lock the sliding carriage in the guide rail, and the sliding carriage swivels about a tilt edge against the biasing force of the spring to release the brake member from the brake face.

The block body E in Milans is permanently biased by spring F against surface (d'). Thus, the wheels (e) are always biased against surface (d'), which means that the wheels (e) are not released from a brake surface as set forth in claim 1. Further, there is absolutely no disclosure in Milans of the block body E exhibiting any type of movement capability against the biasing force of the spring, let alone disclosing swiveling capability about a tilt edge. Thus, applicant asserts that Milans does not anticipate claim 1. For similar reasons, Milans does not anticipate claim 14.

Further, Milans does not anticipate the rejected dependent claims. For example claim 6 requires a first and second tilt edges. As Milans does not disclose any type of tilt edge, Milans certainly does not disclose a sliding carriage with multiple tilt edges.

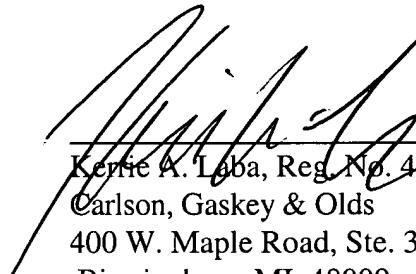
Claim 9 recites that the brake face comprises two side faces of a groove in the guide rail wherein the side faces are disposed obliquely opposite each other. The wheels (e) of Milan, which the examiner argues corresponds to the claimed brake members, cooperate with a common surface, i.e. surface (d'). There is no disclosure in Milans of the brake face comprising two side faces of a groove as defined in claim 9. Further, the examiner has not provided any arguments indicating where this feature is disclosed in Milans. If the examiner continues to uphold this rejection, applicant respectfully requests an indication of where this feature is disclosed in Milans.

Claim 10 recites the brake member comprising a pair of braking cushions arranged on opposite sides of the sliding carriage. Again, Milans clearly does not disclose this feature. The wheels (e) are positioned on a common side of block body E.

Claims 4, 7, 8, 14, 15, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milans alone. For the reasons set forth above, Milans does not disclose, suggest, or teach the claimed invention.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. A check is enclosed to cover the fees for three (3) additional dependent claims. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 1st day of March, 2005.



Laura Combs